

# St. Petersburg Amateur Radio Club

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## S P A R C - G A P

DECEMBER 1975

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
&  
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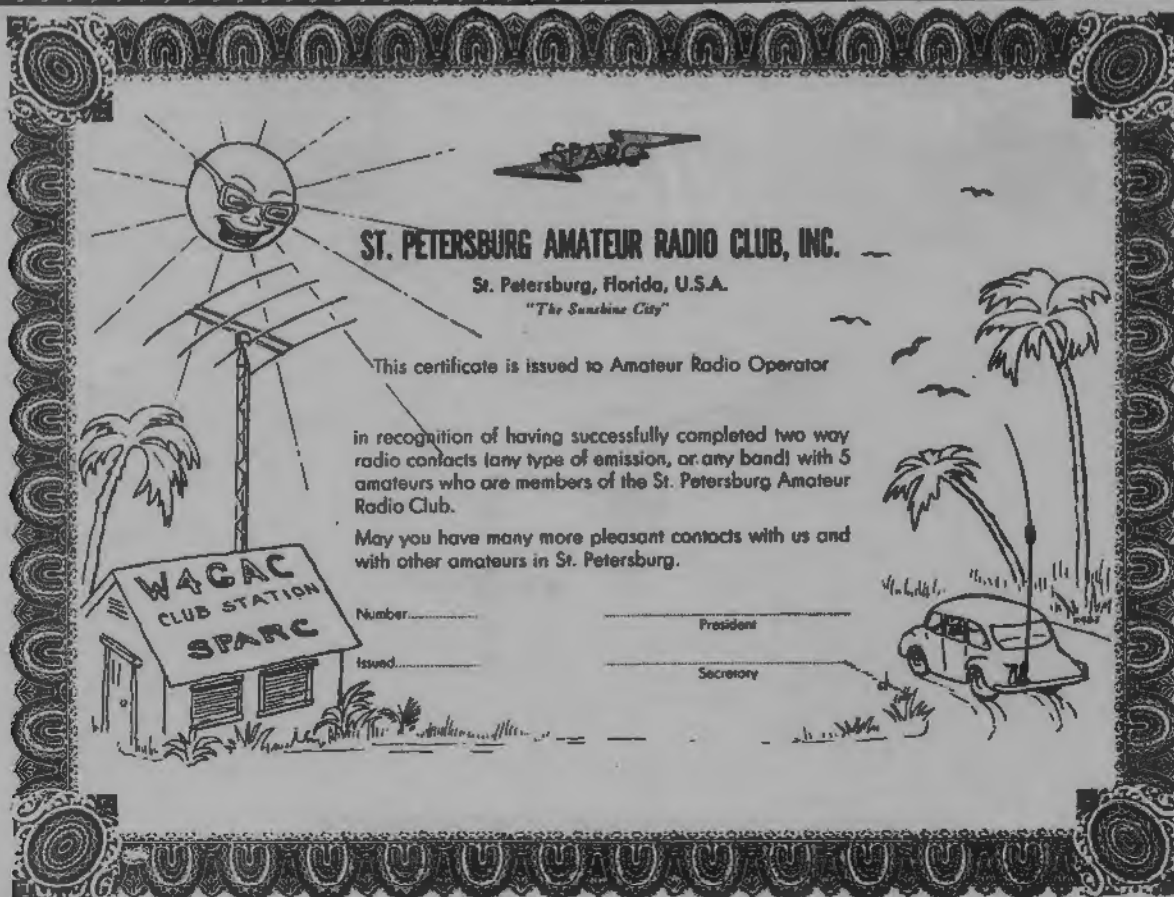
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SPARC - GAP

OUR NEXT MEETING , DECEMBER 5th 1975 AT 6:00 P.M.

RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS

818 - 4th Street North, St.Petersburg, Florida.

\*\*\* P R O G R A M \*\*\*

A Christmas Party will be held at our next meeting DECEMBER 5th. the time being 6:00 P.M. to enable everyone to enjoy the food while its warm/cold whichever the case may be. We will also have a little music by a group of our own members - This will be a covered dish affair under the supervision of Katy Smith, she has requested that the XYL's give her a call and indicate what they can bring or will bring in the line of food - her phone number is 345-0464 .

This party will give each of us an opportunity to meet old friends, meet our new members, and get together with all the members of the Club in a very friendly atmosphere. The only official part of the meeting will be the election of officers for 1976, and to establish the annual dinner and installation of the newly elected officers, the place time and all its particulars, up to date we havent found the most suitable place.

\*\*\*\*\*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

|                   |                  |                   |                |               |       |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-------|
| Allan H.Kaplan    | - WA4DHR (W1AEL) | 7701 16 Ave. No.  | Phone 381-7785 | St.Petersburg | 33710 |
| Harry H. Brugman  | - K1HNN/4        | 6405 41st Ave. No | " 347-5466     | "             | 33702 |
| Dr. Gil Warrenton | - K6OFQ/4        | 426 Palm Ave.No.  | "              | "             | 33703 |

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that we learned that Doris N. Harriman, wife of Fred Harriman W4NMU passed away Friday October 31st 1975 - Our condolences to Fred and his family.

\*\*\*\*\*

Alice Stockey -WB4ZPU has had a bout with a severe back ailment was hospitalized and is now home, but she still has to be placed in traction in order to relieve the pain, and she also maintained contact on 2 meters during her stay at the hospital and also at home.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bill Cox WA4FNY - Reported that just prior to the start of the SPARC meeting a report of an accident with bodily injury was handled and relayed to the Police and Rescue. This report came through the Club 2 meter repeater WR4ALM from a mobile unit at the scene. John Johnson - WA4KNI who was the mobile at the scene of the accident then gave a short report and said the injured party will probably be OK due to the fast response of the rescue and ambulance, as reported through our club repeater.

Bill Schoppe - WB4DWA - Gave us a very interesting talk on PACE MAKERS, also passed along to all present two pacemakers that sometime in the past had been the life giving instruments for the heart patients. Bill has one himself, and he made the remark how well he feels even feels younger. Bill went through considerable research in order to make this talk to the SPARC. It was very well received by all 67 members and 20 guests. Many thanks Bill from all of the membership.....

# SPARC - GAP

+++++

At the November 7th. meeting the nominating committee chairman Larry Miner WA4CTM gave the report of the committee. The slate of the candidates as presented by the committee are as follows: For president, W4CZS Jack Whitley and WA4FNY Bill Cox..... For vice president, WB4VWO Gene Scarbro and K4NAN Brian Felps, ..... For secretary, WA4CTM Larry Miner..... For treasurer, W4VIP Frank Ryll.... For the three available seats on the executive committee five names were submitted, K4th George Rae, K4DRN Ed Harney, K4WXS Lee Kanarian, WB4YTY John Komo and WB4LWB John Merada.....

Further nominations from the floor were then accepted and so nominated were, For President none.... For Vice Present WB4LWB John Merada..... For secretary none... For treasurer Joe Bryan WA4FEN.... For the executive Committee, Bill Chiles WA4FPS, and Victor Astolfi WB4FYS.

Kathy Smith then made an announcement about the December annual Christmas party and requested all those that were coming to contact her as to the number of people in each members party coming to the meeting and as to what each person was going to bring to the pot luck dinner, she suggested the members should arrive at six PM and leave their food at the back kitchen door and the meal would begin at six-thirty.

Gene Scarbro - WB4VWO gave a report on the plans for the upcoming HAMFEST and reaffirmed to the club that it would be developed along the guidelines that the club wants and that it would be a good one.

Woody Huddleston - K4SCL gave a short report on the happenings through the clubs repeater. He said things such as the accident report to the police are being handled nearly daily on the machine, and it has become a vital part of the amateur radio scene in Pinellas County.

Joe Farren WB4ULO gave a report on how well the attendees of the code and theory classes were doing, and up to the present time he expected that at least 50% would pass.

Fred Brunjes - K4KIK gave a short report about the formation of a group of local clubs that are sponsoring a convention here in the county for amateurs. Mor details would be reported at a later date.

## HELP

Lee Kanariann - K4WXS needs some help in the repairing or to determine what can be wrong with her antenna/antenna traps , please contact her at 345-7750.....

At this writing or reporting, the meeting place for our annaul installation dinner has not been settled.

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Official Bulletin #556 from ARRL Headquarters October 16, 1975: WIAW will resume its fall winter operating schedule with the return to Standard Time on October 26. Code practice and bulletin transmissions will continue to be heard at the same local time.' The 0500 UTC cw bulletin will be transmitted at 10 wpm instead of the usual 18 wpm with the change in time, on a trial basis. Your comments are welcomed. The new code practice and bulletin schedule will appear in the November issue of QST and the complete operating schedule is available upon request. an addressed stamped envelop, please, to ARRL 225 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111.....



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
SPARC and SPARC REPEATER TEAM.



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## "NET CONTROLLING IS AN ART"

Net controlling is an art. It takes know-how and experience. There are far too many new members who have never taken new control, and there is no reason for it except that they have never taken the time to sit down and learn. Last month on the local net the regular net control station did not show up. The net didn't get started for fifteen minutes until some brave soul finally decided he would reluctantly take the job. He was the only one who had done it before ....years ago! Doesn't this sound familiar? It happens everywhere. Perhaps you were one of those who were afraid to assume the responsibility. Why? Because you have never done it?

Well let's provide a basic "How To" lesson on net controlling in hopes you will take the information and use it to get you over the hump and into the NCS arena.

We will talk primarily about the voice net that is conducted each afternoon since it is the one most of us check into. Let's assume you have volunteered to take net control of your local net for a friend who couldn't make it at the last minute. The first thing that you do is to make sure you have the necessary materials in front of you. You will need ROUTING GUIDE, (Repeater Directory). These guides list the regular net members, also address and phone numbers. You need a network sheet. Often NCS use a page from the regular log book and simply adopt column heading as needed. In addition, since this sheet must become part of your regular log book, it must contain information on the frequency, mode, starting and ending times, power etc. Also handy is a space to indicate you have sent a net report to the net manager.

It gives the net a personal touch if you call everyone by name sometime during the net. If the net has any size at all you won't be able to remember all the names of the check-ins.

Net call-ups differ from net to net. By now you should know what your standard net procedure is. It is a good idea to get the traffic moving as soon as possible. After this you should ask for general check-ins and if you are new at the job, a comment to the effect "TAKE IT SLOW" will help. If time permits, it is nice to say a few words of greeting to each station. If it is a new check-in, it is nice to introduce yourself and obtain his name and QTH. A good practice is for the net manager or his substitute to take the new station off frequency and have a short QSO and welcome him to the net, or have the new check-in stand by until after net and welcome him to the net. If more nets did this the percentage of returning newcomers would be much higher. After all net business is complete you declare the net closed and sign off. After you have been a net controller for a while, the ingenuity inherent in amateurs will come to bear and you will seek ways to make the job easier.

I hope this information sheds enough light on the subject to encourage you to try your hand at net control duties. We need more good net controls! Try a dry run by following along with the regular NCS and make your own net log. It's fun to keep track of everything all alone. The above article is from "THE WORLD RADIO NEWS" submitted by K5IHH/4

deK5IHH/4

Official Bulletin #558 from ARRL Hdqtrs: Another series of moonbounce tests is scheduled from WA6LET using Stanford Research Institute's 150 foot dish. Operation on 432 MHz only, circular polarization, will take place October 31 from 1900 to 2100 UTC and November 23 from 0430 to 1600 UTC. WA6LET will transmit on 432.1 MHz during the first 30 seconds of each minute and listen during the last 30 seconds between 432 and 432.075 MHz. Special one way low power tests will be conducted near each even hour announced by a preamble. Those copying the lower power transmissions are asked to report to Victor Frank WB6KAP, SRI, Building 320A, 333 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, California 94025, postmarked no later than December 8. Special SWLs will be sent.



# SPARC REPEATER NEWS

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The team meeting was held Nov. 4, 1975 at fire headquarters with 41 members and guests present. This represents a record turn-out. We are about to out-grow our meeting place. We now have 102 Team members. Doughnuts were furnished by WB4HYH and cup cakes by WB4KSJ. Coffee was served by K4RXO, assisted by Thelma Cottrell and Betty Bellows.

People refrained generally from smoking during the meeting, at the request of K4ISS, with the result that the air was more breathable.

K4SCL and others reported on the weekly transmitter hunts, which are proving very popular with generally 12 to 15 vehicles searching.

The Saturday morning breakfasts at Howard Johnson's also continue in popularity, with 55 people present last time.

WA4CTM, chairman of the committee studying alternate control methods, reported each member is busy conjuring up ideas which will later be sifted out and used as the basis for recommendations.

K4SCL displayed a copy of the city's Severe Weather Operations Plan manual, stating that the repeater Team should be ready to support this plan. Exerpts from the plan, dealing with amateur radio, will be made available to WA4FYR to be worked into his County AREC plan. A sample County AREC plan, of Leavenworth, Kansas, was also passed around.

K4FCW displayed a pacemaker which had been used in a cardiac patient.

During the meeting, WA4WDM arrived stating that the Police Department desired some help in locating a hand-held portable stolen from the Fire Department. It was being used to make unauthorized transmissions on a fire frequency. Several amateurs left the meeting to assist, including WA4KNI, WB4ARN and WA4FYR.

There was a vigorous discussion of the proposed revision to club by-laws with no definite conclusions other than a general feeling that there are several things wrong with the proposed revision.

WA4KdL spoke in favor of establishing formal rules for the transmitter hunts. K5IHH agreed to take on this project, assisted by WA4KDL and K4ISS.

There have been incidents of illegal transmissions made on the SPARC repeater, e.g. unidentified transmitter playing music. The control operator generally shuts off the repeater when this happens. Certain members have objected to the repeater being shut off, stating that this interferes with their efforts to locate the culprit. I have to say that the control operators generally have no choice but to shut it off. Quoting from the Control Operators' Instruction Book, Chapter 7, page 7-1, paragraph 8, "If it appears that illegal use of the repeater is in progress or about to occur, terminate repeater operation immediately and log details." No deviation from this instruction is to be made without clearance from the Trustee.

All people using the repeater should be aware of the curfew which is normally in effect from 11 P.M. to 6 A.M. During this time the control operators try to sleep, leaving the repeater turned on for possible emergency use and loudspeakers turned up. When thoughtless people key-up the repeater or use it for non-emergency purposes, it wakes up the control operator. If we can not observe the curfew, it will be necessary to shut down the repeater at night.

73 de K4SCL/WR4ALM.

Official Bulletin #557 from ARRL Headquarters: The FCC has acted in Docket 19973 to give the amateur service specific band allocations in the experimental frequencies above 40 GHz. Effective November 14, the amateur service will share the following frequencies on a secondary basis with the radiolocation service: 48.0 - 50.0 GHz, 165.0 - 170.0 GHz, and 240.0 - 250.0 GHz. Also, all frequencies above 300.0 GHz are available to amateur stations. The frequencies involved are used only for experimental purposes at the present time; no regularly-used amateurs bands are affected. Further information will appear in December issue of QST.....



SPARC-GAP

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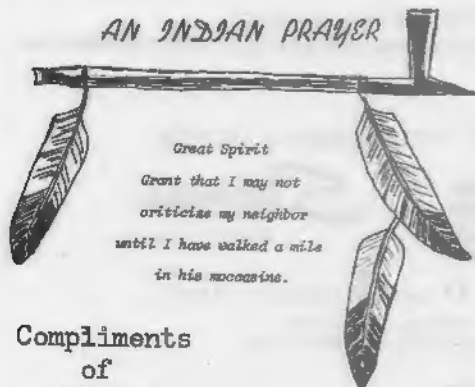


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K4FCW.

# SPARC - GAP

\*\*\*\*\*

## HIDDEN TRANSMITTER GENERAL RULES

1. By January 1, 1976 all transmitter hunts will be held on 146.49 MHS Simplex until that time they will continue to be held on 146.94 Simplex with the repeater in operation.
2. The hidden transmitter must be in a minimum (4) four wheel vehicle.
3. The hidden transmitter must be south of Gulf To Bay (Hwy 60) in Pinellas County, All Gulf Beaches are off limits. Downtown St. Petersburg is off limits from 5th Ave. North to 5th Ave. south from Tampa Bay to 16th. Street.
4. The site must be accesible by normal passenger car.
5. Location must be accesiable to General Public with no fee charge.
6. The hidden transmitter must consider his and all participants personal safety.
7. At the end of two hours if the hidden trasmitter isn't found the same person will hide the following week.
8. If you have been a hidden transmitter two times upon winning the third time he must relinquish it to someone who has not been a hidden transmitter. ....

## PROPOSED TRANSMITTER HUNTS

-----

There will be two (2) basic types of transmitter hunts:

- a) Competitive Hunt
- b) Fast Find Hunt

The general rule will apply for both types of hunts.

### FAST FIND HUNT

In this "Fast Find" style of hunt the object will be to locate the hidden transmitter in the shortest possible time. Base stations will be allowed to give mobiles as accurate of fix as possible. At the descretion of the hidden transmitter the mobile will then be in competition with one another, or may work together as in an actual hunting situation. Mobiles may start at any location. The hidden transmitter does not have to transmit on a regular time interval.....

### COMPETITIVE HUNT

All mobiles will start within a four (4) square block area designated by the hidden transmitter on the SPARC new the night prior to the hunt.

The hidden transmitter must be within a seven miles radius of the center of the starting area.

The power of the hidden trasmitter should be less than 25w and must be readableat the starting area on a mobile using a standard  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave whip.

The hidden transmitter must use a vertically polarized antenna. directional pattern antennas may not be used on the transmitter.

Power levels must be kept as constant as possible.

A participant in the hunt may not be aided by any other station.

The hidden transmitter will transmit on a schedule of approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes on the air and 3 minutes off.....

de Bob K5IHH/4 K4ISS WA4KOW WA4GDM

DONT FORGET OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY.....DONT FORGET OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY.....

ARRL BULLETIN #560 - At its January 1975 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors authorized a special United States Bicentennial WAS Award for contacts made during 1976. In general standard WAS rules will apply. However, no endorsements for band or mode will be given for this award. Any amateur is eligible for the Bicentennial WAS, regardless of past awards earned. The January issue of QST will carry a reproduction of the award in addition to basic rules. Special application forms will be ready early in the year.

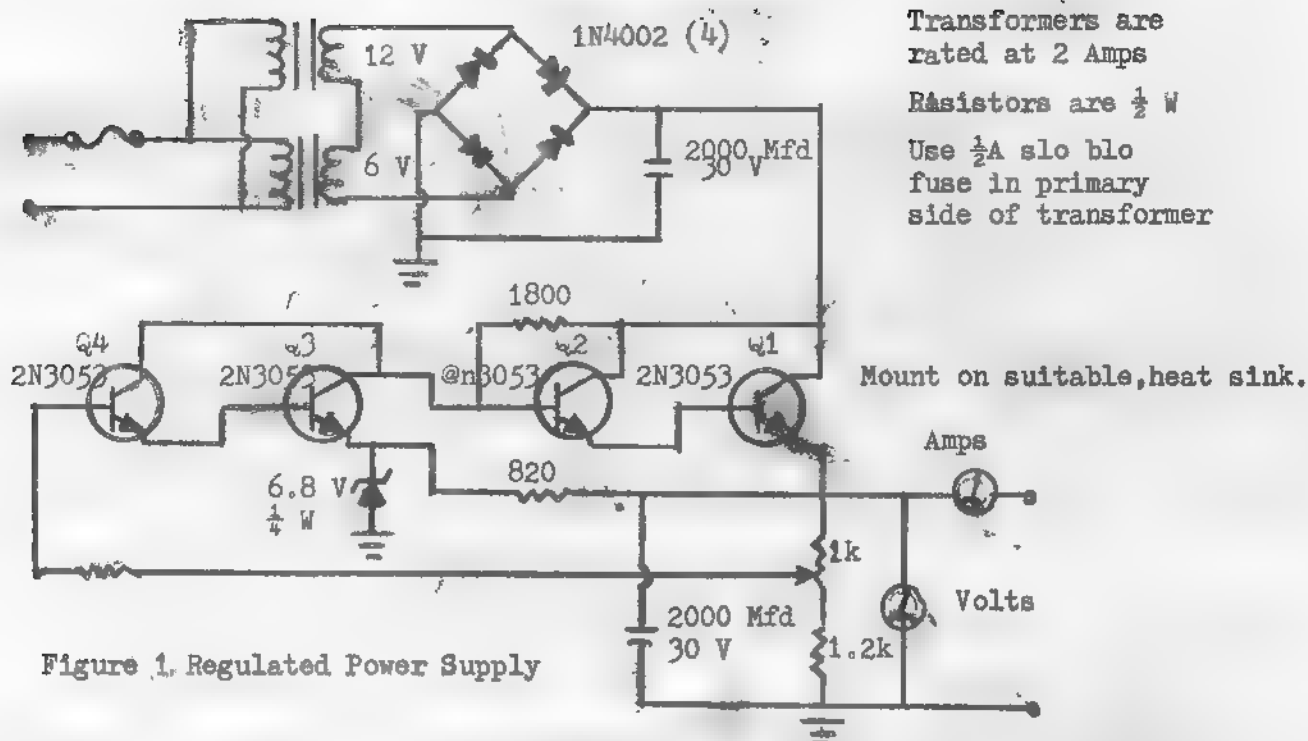


Figure 1. Regulated Power Supply

Figure 1 depicts a practical low cost regulated DC power supply capable of delivering 8 to 15 volts at currents up to 2 amperes with regulation in the order of 2%. To keep costs down, readily available surplus transformers are used with secondaries in series. A bridge rectifier, where each leg handles half the load current, permits the use of inexpensive 1N4001 or 1N4002 diodes needing no heat sinks. The 2N3055 ( $Q_1$ ) power transistor will be dissipating a fair amount of power and must be mounted on a heat sink. Any of the commercial heat sink about 3" square or larger will do.

The resistor between the pot and ground keeps the output within the range over which the regulator can maintain control with full rated current. (Note that the zener establishes the reference or minimum voltage point) If the input to the regulator falls too low, the supply will drop out of regulation. For light load currents up to about 1 ampere, it is desirable to omit this resistor and take advantage of the 25 to 30 volts then available for special bench projects. Under this latter condition, the filter capacitor should have a working voltage of 50 volts.

Although ripple is negligible, additional filtering action can be realized by connecting a capacitor from the base of  $Q_2$  to ground.

No special construction precautions are cited. The power transformer(s) filter capacitors and the heat sink for  $Q_1$  may be mounted on a chassis. All the remaining components may be mounted on a piece of perforated board and affixed to the chassis.

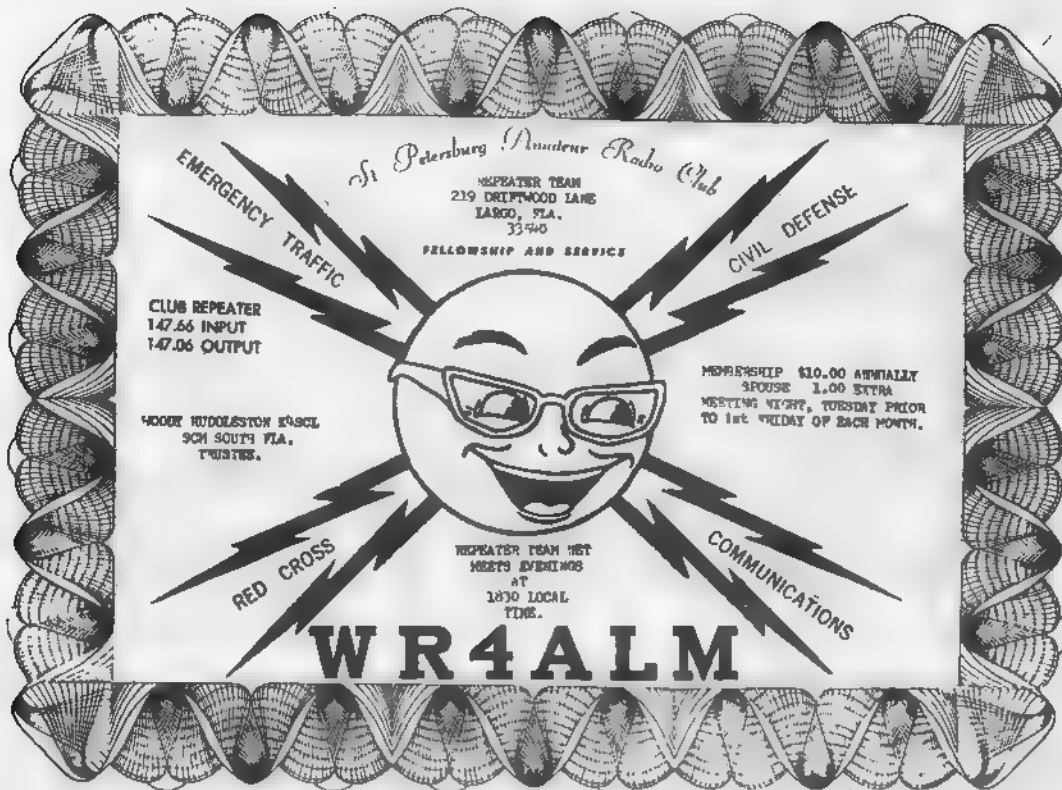
(Reprint from Mars News Letter.)

Submitted by WA4KNI John Johnson

ARRL bulletin #559: In response to a request by ARRL, the FCC has deleted the restrictions on crossband operation of repeaters effective December 15. This change permits a repeater to have its output frequency in a different band than its input. The commission also clarified its rules as to when and how various types of amateur stations may retransmit the signals of other amateur stations. Further details will appear in an early issue of QST. Operators in need of details more quickly may send a stamped addressed envelope to ARRL Hdqtrs and ask for a copy of the Report and Order in Docket 20113.



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